

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

19 – 21 July 2019

VOLUNTEERING RECRUITMENT, RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT

The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **receive** an update detailing recruitment of volunteers, upcoming opportunities and projects.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 It is important that the Central Executive Committee are aware of opportunities coming up which could be shared with staff and students. This paper is hoped to keep CEC members updated about the recruitment and retention of volunteers.

2. Volunteer recruitment and developments

2.1 Upcoming roles include:

- Following successful pilot of 'Library Study Volunteers' we will be bringing this role into business as usual with the support of both the Library and the Students in Secure Environments team. The project will now expand to include level two students as well as level three and postgraduate.
- Another opportunity for students to come onto campus to scan the last images for our archive in will be launched soon, first refusal for this project will be offered to the online archive cataloguers.
- Development of an idea for a role providing proof reading support to Post Graduate Research Students in underway. This service would especially support those who have English as a second language. The idea was brought to us by PGR students, who gave a very good case for the project. Further information will be shared with the CEC for approval when a working model is established.
- An opportunity to involve more students from the SISE team (for example those released on Temporary Licence) has emerged, and we are exploring ways of supporting this initiative.

- 2.2 Meet-up hosts have now been officially made volunteers, to allow for the office to track numbers of hosts, include hosts in celebration events to recognise the time and effort involved in the role and to ensure we can provide support and training for those hosting meet ups, including ensuring all meet up hosts have an awareness of safeguarding, prevent and GDPR.
- 2.3 Volunteer numbers can be found on the last page (Appendix 1). These have gone up, but not as many as we had predicted, one major factor for this is that many roles are approaching the summer and end of term, these roles are due to open again for recruitment in the coming months. One role which has proved very popular is the Archive Online Cataloguers, whose numbers have grown organically with very little advertisement, these volunteers have been engaged, enthusiastic and efficient, having just completed their 100th batch, cataloguing over 2000 images for our archive. This project has so far attracted over 60 active volunteers throughout its life-span, with students volunteering from as far as Japan, Philippines, Netherlands, Gibraltar and Canada! This highlights the need for innovative and interesting online only volunteer opportunities.

3. SLACK social use for volunteers

- 3.1 152 members using SLACK, an increase of 62 members since last CEC (up to 10 of these include staff who are present in the space to answer role specific questions etc). The platform continues to be a friendly and engaging space for volunteers to chat to each other, and a couple of role specific channels have been created to facilitate links between volunteers – this is being done on a trial basis, feedback will be sought from volunteers.

4. Volunteer recognition

- 4.1 The celebration event to take place Saturday, 6 July 2019. At the time of writing this, an update was not able to be provided, but anyone who would like to know more, please feel free to ask those CEC members or volunteers who attended.

Stephanie Stubbins
Deputy President

Beth Metcalf
Head of Student Volunteering

Appendix 1:

	March 2019	July 2019
CEC	18 ↑	17 ↓
Trustee	11 ↑	11 -
Ouset Trustee	5 -	5 -
OSL Director	4 ↑	4 -
Central Committee Representative	61 ↑	53 ↓
Learner Experience Representative	18 ↑	16 ↓
Senate Reference Group Member	36 ↓	35 ↓
Chair of societies	1 -	1 -
Student Forum Moderator	17 ↓	24 ↑ (recruiting)
Lead Residential School Representative	Role re-open May	5 ↑
Residential School Representative	Role re-open May	8 ↑
Graduation Coordinator	4 ↓	recruiting
Graduation Volunteer	13 ↓	recruiting
STUDIO host	3 ↓	3 -
Disabled Students Group Committee	8 ↓	8 -
PLEXUS Committee	6 ↓	6 -
Peer Supporter	11 ↓	11 -
Volunteer Researcher (now Student Voice Researcher)	3 ↓	-
Community Champion	3 (role to be redeveloped) -	3
Archive online cataloguer	35 ↑	40 ↑
Student-led Project Leader	4 ↑	2 ↓
Library Study Volunteers	22 ↓	21 ↓
BAME chair and working group	11 ↑	9 ↓
Honorary life member champion	-	2 ↑
Meet up hosts	-	32 ↑
	292	316 ↑ (+24)

(Numbers are based on roles assigned via the database. Some roles have an expiry date to allow for representative data collection e.g. one off roles often included in data for six months to represent the amount of time they were in contact with the association.)